

**CITY COUNCIL  
STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
March 12, 2013**

The Study Session of the Monroe City Council was held on March 12, 2013, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilpersons present: Goering, Cudaback, Williams, Kamp, Davis, Gamble (late), and Hanford (late).

It was noted that Councilperson Hanford would be late.

Staff members present: Brazel, Feilberg, Nelson, Farrell, Quenzer, Sax, and Martinson.

Fire Chief Silva and Fire Marshall Fitzgerald from the Fire District were present.

Student Representative Harano was not present.

City Attorney Zach Lell was not present.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilperson Hanford entered Council Chambers at 7:02 p.m.

**COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

No citizens wished to address Council.

**BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilperson Goering pulled Consent Agenda #1.

Councilperson Williams pulled Consent Agenda #2.

**1. Resolution Authorizing Ballot Vote for 1/10 of 1% Sales Tax Increase for Criminal Justice Purposes**

After comments, the motion was made by Councilperson Goering and seconded by Councilperson Cudaback to approve Consent Agenda item #1. On vote,

Motion carried 6/0.

**2. Adopt Multi-jurisdictional Program for Public Information**

At Council request, Feilberg gave a brief summary about this jurisdictional program.

Councilperson Gamble entered Council Chambers at 7:05 p.m.

The motion was made by Councilperson Williams and seconded by Councilperson Goering, to approve the Consent Agenda item #2. On vote,

Motion carried 7/0.

## **FINAL ACTION**

### **1. Authorize Mayor to Sign Collective Bargaining Agreements:**

- A. Clerical**
- B. Parks & Public Works**
- C. Supervisors**

Human Resources Manager Warthan gave a brief overview, explaining the key points of the contracts.

After discussion, the motion was made by Councilperson Hanford and seconded by Councilperson Kamp, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Agreement between the City of Monroe and the Public, Professional & Office-Clerical Employees and Drivers Local Union No. 763 representing the Public Works and Parks, Clerical and Supervisors bargaining units.

After comments and discussion, the motion was on the floor to approve the contracts. On vote,

Motion carried 6/1.

Councilperson Williams was opposed.

**MEETING RECESSED & RECONVENED IN STUDY SESSION: 7:11 P.M.**

## **STUDY SESSION TOPICS:**

### **1. Discussion: Utility Billing Late Fees and Utility Billing Policies**

Finance Director Nelson gave a brief overview explaining that the proposed policies are a housekeeping issue and was suggested by the State Auditor. She explained some of the changes to current policies and the reason behind increasing late fees on utility bills. Currently, the costs to administer past-due accounts are factored into the calculations to determine utility rates across the board. The purpose of the increase is to have only the customers who are late paying their bill bear the costs of administering past-due accounts.

After discussion, it was determined that the resolution on policies would come back on March 19<sup>th</sup>; on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the resolution amending late fees would be presented to Council. Customers will be notified in advance of the changes in late fees.

Mayor Zimmerman commented that they hope that the end result would be to have people pay their utility bill on time. Hardship cases will be dealt with individually.

## **2. Discuss Changes in Street Numbering System (Council Request)**

Public Works Director Feilberg gave an overview explaining that this item has returned for further discussion. Fire Chief Silva, Fire Marshall Fitzgerald, and Police Chief Quenzer are here for the discussion; they suggest going to the regional grid system.

Fire Marshall Fitzgerald explained that there is a new CAD system being developed. The system makes decisions based on algorithms. If there were to be changes to addressing in Monroe, it should be done correctly.

Chief Silva suggested creating a standard and start with new developments to fix the problem. Adopt a process to move towards standardized addressing.

Quenzer stated that his biggest issue is that they are trying to get a new CAD system up and running. Dispatching would be based on the patrol unit that is nearest. Changing addresses would delay the new system. He suggesting adopting and sticking to a new system; however, a wholesale change would be costly to everyone and costly in safety.

Public Works Director Feilberg explained the problems that arose with the changes that were made recently on new addresses. He explained the basis of the County grid system and the design standards that could cause issues in the grid pattern.

It was determined that PW Director Feilberg would look at this further, along with the Police and Fire Departments, to determine the scope of making some changes in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan. There may be an ad hoc Council committee assigned later.

## **3. Department Reports**

Chief Silva stated that the Fire Commissioners approved a resolution to support the levy for Valley General Hospital. Moving the Emergency Room out of their response area would add time to their roundtrip transport time.

Mayor Zimmerman asks the general public to give serious thought to the levy and ask themselves if the hospital is important; he feels it is.

Chief Quenzer distributed information to Council pertaining to response time for all Police calls. He also reported that Sgt. Clopp returned to work on Monday.

Councilperson Goering reported that the Fire Department did a great job in fighting the fire in Monroe last night.

Councilperson Gamble agreed and is thankful, as he lives in that neighborhood. He also supports Valley General Hospital, and hopes the community takes the ballot measure seriously.

Councilperson Cudaback was happy to report that the Cheri Hurst and other City of Monroe staff, who were nominated for an award at the United Way event at Comcast Arena.

City Administrator Brazel reminded Council of the Ambassador event on Thursday; Councilperson Kamp plans to attend.

#### **4. Draft Agenda for March 19, 2013**

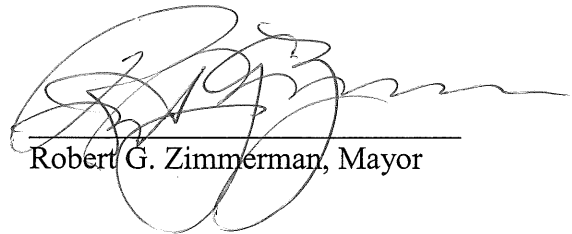
City Administrator Brazel presented the draft agenda for March 19, 2013. He also reported that restrooms at Downtown and Rotary Field would be discussed on March 19<sup>th</sup> during the downtown parking discussions. This topic ties in with the parking discussion, due to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations and requirements.

Councilperson Goering felt there should be a resolution to state Council's intent to not continue with the Red Light camera program on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:19 p.m.



Robert G. Zimmerman, Mayor

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Eadye Martinson, Deputy City Clerk